富士山ひょうた
Hyouta Fujiyama

その手の熱を重ねて2

dariacomics-tentenkaidoku Frontier Works

TENKEI

KOGA-SAN.
DO YOU HAVE PLANS RIGHT NOW?
EH? NO....

THEN HOW ABOUT WE GO ON A DATE TODAY?

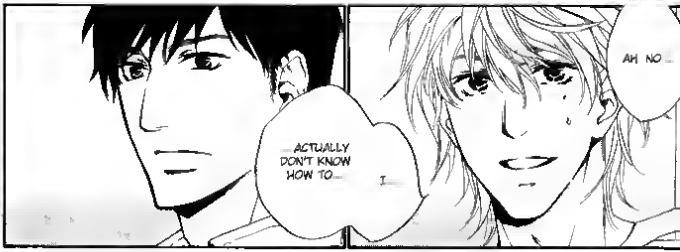
...A DATE?

そのキの熱を重ねて
open.6
trattoria
天景
NKEI

WELL, IT'S JUST...
WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ON A DATE?
DO YOU SEE ANYONE ELSE AROUND?
A DATE...
YOU MEAN--ME AND YOU TAKAKAGE-SAN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT...?
I WAS JUST THINKING IT MIGHT BE NICE TO SPEND THE DAY LIKE THAT WITH YOU
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ANYTHING SPECIAL,
JUST GO OUT AS A PAIR AND HANG OUT. HAVE A MEAL
SHALL WE HAVE SOME BREAKFAST FIRST, THEN?
SO?

THE MEAL YOU COOKED FOR ME BEFORE...
WAS REALLY DELICIOUS SO
EH?
CAN WE EAT BREAKFAST HERE?
UMM...
THEN... HOW ABOUT I MAKE SOMETHING FOR YOU?
It is just something simple though
PLEASE!

watching
EH...?
THAT REMINDS ME...YOU ALWAYS WATCH ME WHEN I COOK, BUT...
...DO YOU NEVER COOK FOR YOURSELF?

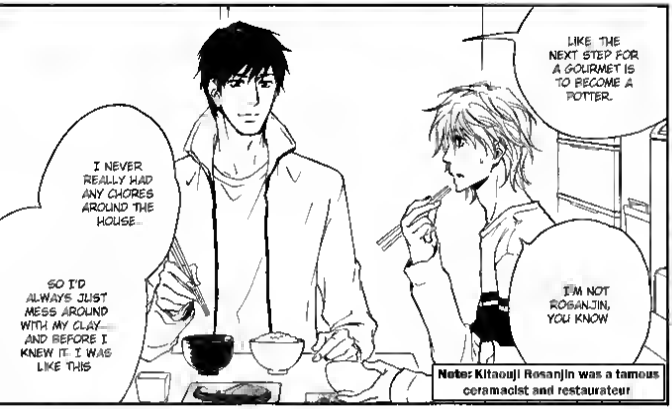

AH NO...
...ACTUALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO... I...

USE THIS BOWL
WHY DON'T YOU TRY CRACKING THIS EGG?
EH?!
I'M REALLY BAD AT THIS...
WE'RE MAKING AN OMLETTE SO DON'T WORRY IF YOU BREAK THE YOLK

TAP...
.....
pull
pull
CRUNCH
SNORT
IT'S NOT FUNNY!
I--I TOLD YOU I WAS BAD AT THIS!
NO, I-- I'M SOR...
AH!
IT FELL IN

I THINK I UNDERSTAND...
I'LL TEACH YOU A TRICK SO PLEASE TRY ONCE MORE...
EH...?
JUST TRY CRACKING IT A BIT MORE THAN BEFORE...
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT CRUSHING THE EGG, THEN DO IT TWO OR THREE TIMES
TAP TAP
THAT'S RIGHT.
NOW USE YOUR FINGERS AT THE CRACK TO GENTLY PULL EACH HALF APART...
THAT'S AMAZING! MY HANDS AREN'T EVEN THAT MESSY!
YUP! GOOD JOB.
AH!
plop

I'D ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT SOMEONE SO SKILLED IN POTTERY...
...WOULD HAVE SOME MEASURE OF SKILL IN THE KITCHEN, TOO.
STILL, THAT WAS QUITE UNEXPECTED!


I NEVER REALLY HAD ANY CHORES AROUND THE HOUSE...
SO I'D ALWAYS JUST MESS AROUND WITH MY CLAY... AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS LIKE THIS
LIKE THE NEXT STEP FOR A GOURMET IS TO BECOME A POTTER.
I'M NOT ROSANJIN, YOU KNOW
Note: Kitaouji Rosanjin was a famous ceramacist and restaurateur

BUT...
turn
WELL I CAN'T SAY I BLAME THEM
EVEN BACK IN HOME EC CLASS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THE OTHERS IN MY GROUP ALWAYS TOLD ME NOT TO DO ANYTHING

AND IF YOU LEARNED TO COOK FOR YOURSELF...
IT MIGHT SOMEHOW INFLUENCE YOUR POTTERY AS WELL
I SUPPOSE
MAYBE. AT LEAST
YOU MANAGED TO CRACK THAT EGG JUST FINE ONCE I SHOWED YOU THE TRICK
I'M SURE YOU COULD GET THE HANG OF IT IF YOU TRIED
WELL THEN,
I'VE FINISHED CLEANING UP,
UM, ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY KNOW THIS AREA THAT WELL...
SO HAVE YOU DECIDED WHERE WE'LL GO OUT?
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE AROUND HERE

I USUALLY STAY HOME
YOU DON'T GO OUT ANY-WHERE?
!!
!!!
WHERE DO YOU USUALLY GO ON YOUR DAYS OFF, TAKAKAGE-SAN?

I AM AN OLD MAN
Definitely compared to you
I'M USUALLY LAZING ABOUT AT HOME AFTER ALL
LOOK AT THIS GREAT PARK YOU'VE GOT NEARBY!
YOU NEVER COME HERE FOR A WALK?
WHAT'S THAT? YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD MAN!
I COME OCCASIONALLY USUALLY WHEN IT'S WARMER.
WELL
ANYWAYS WHY DO YOU ASK—?
BUT—YOU'VE HAD ONES BEFORE RIGHT?
HOW OLD WERE YOU AGAIN, TAKAKAGE-SAN?
33
GOT A GIRL-FRIEND?
IF I DID I WOULDN'T BE OUT HERE ON A DATE WITH YOU
OH RIGHT

.....
smile

I JUST WONDERED IF YOU WERE LIKE THAT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIENDS TOO...
MAYBE I'LL CHANGE IF I START DATING YOU.

I... STILL REALLY DON'T GET YOU...
WHY WOULD YOU WANT ME OF ALL PEOPLE?

...DOES THAT MEAN I'M FREE TO SEDUCE YOU, THEN...?
...NEVER MIND. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER.

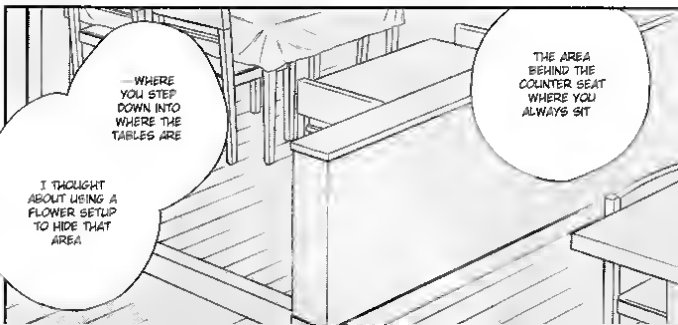
WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?
WHAT ABOUT YOU KOGA-SAN?
.....
.....
CRAP...
HE TURNED HIS FACE AWAY AGAIN LIKE LAST NIGHT...
ARE THE DAYS YOU COME TO MY RESTAURANT YOUR DAYS OFF...?
HMM...
I DON'T REALLY WORK WITH ANY SET DAYS OFF, SO...
THEN: WHATEVER YOU FEEL LIKE DOING THAT DAY...?
NOT NECESSARILY
PRETTY MUCH.
SOMETIMES I'LL THROW SOME CLAY IN THE MORNING AND THEN HEAD OUT

THAT REMINDS ME... AT FIRST, YOU USED TO COME AROUND IN THE AFTERNOON A LOT...
BUT LATELY YOU'VE BEEN COMING MORE IN THE EVENINGS.
ARE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF A PROJECT OR SOMETHING?
HMM.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT...
BUT THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE EITHER.
HM?

I GUESS SO.
JUST TAKING YOUR TIME WITH IT THEN?

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE

EH?
THEN, IF I ASKED YOU TO MAKE SOMETHING FOR ME
DO YOU THINK YOU'D HAVE TIME TO TAKE IT ON?

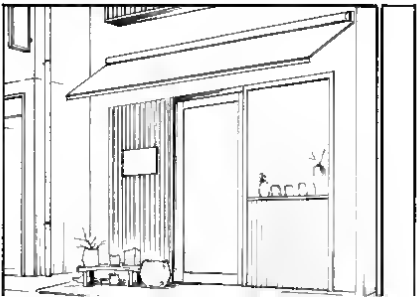

—WHERE YOU STEP DOWN INTO WHERE THE TABLES ARE
I THOUGHT ABOUT USING A FLOWER SETUP TO HIDE THAT AREA
THE AREA BEHIND THE COUNTER SEAT WHERE YOU ALWAYS SIT

SO YOU WANT... A FLOWER VASE?
WELL, THAT...
I'LL PROBABLY USE IT TO DISPLAY FLOWERS AS WELL, BUT...
JUST SOMETHING THAT, EVEN ALONE, WOULD HAVE AN IMPACTFUL PRESENCE.
YOU UNDERSTAND THE ATMOSPHERE OF MY RESTAURANT.
SO I THOUGHT I'D ASK YOU.
CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT?

EH?
OF COURSE THERE'S NO HURRY...
AND I'M SURE WE'D NEED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF PAYMENT AND ALL FIRST...
.....
IF IT'S FOR YOU, THEN THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO CONSIDER PAYMENT...
EH? BUT, THAT'S NOT...
AND ANYWAYS...
I'VE NEVER PRICED MY OWN WORKS, SO I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO CHARGE FOR IT...
.....!

I LEFT IT ALL UP TO KITAGAKI-SAN...
WHEN YOU ORDERED SOMETHING FROM ME LAST TIME, TOO...

TO KITAGAKI-SAN'S PLACE!
EH?
THEN, LET'S GO



WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS
YOU TWO HERE TOGETHER!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP BEFORE
Hahaha!
IF I'D KNOWN IT'D COME OUT SO QUICKLY I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU WHEN YOU CAME HERE!
OH, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE...!
HERE ARE SOME DORAYAKI AS SOUVENIRS!
LET'S NOT STAND AROUND CHATTING
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT

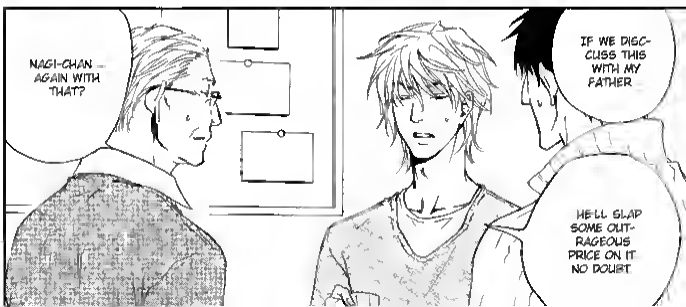
ACTUALLY THE REASON WE'VE COME HERE TODAY...
...IS TO ASK YOU SOMETHING
WHAT'S THAT?
...WHEN TAKAKAGE-SAN ORDERED THEM FROM YOU, RIGHT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PRICED MY WORKS...
I WAS HOPING TO GET YOUR OPINION ON THAT FOR REFERENCE
REFERENCE...?
I'M CONSIDERING ASKING KOGA-SAN FOR ANOTHER PIECE, YOU SEE

WE THOUGHT WE'D GET YOUR OPINION, IF WE COULD.
KOGA-SAN MENTIONED NOT KNOWING HOW TO PRICE IT, THOUGH, SO...
IT'S A SINGLE LARGE PIECE THIS TIME.
THEN...
DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU'RE DOING THIS AS A PERSONAL PROJECT, NAGI-CHAN?
EH?
AH, THAT'S...
NOTHING'S SET IN STONE YET, SEE
I SEE...
?

SHOULDN'T YOU CONSULT WITH AKIHITO-KUN ON A MATTER SUCH AS THIS?
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME... I SHOULDN'T INTRUDE IN HIS AREA
WHILE I'M FLATTERED YOU CAME TO ASK THIS OF ME...
YOU KNOW I'M ONLY A POTTERY SALESMAN.
IT MAY BE TOO MUCH TO ASK OF ME FOR JUST ONE ITEM...
AH...
"LAST TIME"?
!
I WAS REFERRING TO WHEN NAGI CHAN AGREED TO TAKE YOUR ORDER BEFORE
IS THIS ANY OF MY BUSINESS EVEN...?

INDEED.
AH...
I HEARD THAT HE DID IT IN SECRET AND THAT HIS FATHER WAS ANGRY AFTERWARDS
NAGI-CHAN'S FATHER AKIHITO-KUN...
...WORKS AS THE CONTACT FOR NOT JUST HIM, BUT BESSHOU-SAN AND OTHER POTTERY COLLECTIVES AS WELL.

HE'S JUST STINGY WITH MONEY IS ALL
IS HE A STRICT MAN?
WHEN HE FOUND OUT BEFORE HE REALLY LET ME HAVE IT!


NAGI-CHAN... AGAIN WITH THAT?
IF WE DISCUSS THIS WITH MY FATHER...
HE'LL SLAP SOME OUTRAGEOUS PRICE ON IT NO DOUBT.

I'M JUST TELLING YOU TO TRY ASKING HIM
HE SAID HE'D BE DROPPING BY TODAY AFTER ALL
I'M SURE HE'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE--
shock
COUGH
HE'S COMING HERE?!
YES. HE CALLED ME JUST YESTERDAY.
THE INFORMATION ON HAIJIMA-KUN'S SOLO EXHIBITION
FINALLY CAME THROUGH SO HE WAS GOING TO BRING IT
.....

I'LL THINK ABOUT THE PRICE MYSELF...
...AFTER I DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE IT ON
WHY ARE YOU RUSHING...?
EH?
TAKAKAGE-SAN, LET'S LEAVE NOW!
STAND
NAGI-CHAN!
OPEN
IT SEEMS HE'S ARRIVED...
NAGISA...?

FRIEND?
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M NAGISA TAKAKAGE.
'NAGISA'...?
AH, YES.
OF COURSE NOT!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
MY...FRIEND AND I WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SO WE DROPPED IN WAS ALL.
ARE YOU CAUSING TROUBLE FOR KITAGAKI-SAN AGAIN?

WE APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST
I'M NAGISA'S FATHER, KOGA AKIHITO
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PLACED AN ORDER FOR MY SON'S PIECES THROUGH KITAGAKI-SAN
SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANYTHING ELSE PLEASE
WAI--
AH, THANK YOU...

DAD!
NAGISA
STOP TRYING TO SHOVE A SALE DOWN HIS THROAT!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO DAWDLE
YOU'RE FREE TO DISTRACT YOURSELF AS YOU WISH
...BUT HOW IS YOUR EXHIBITION PIECE COMING?
I KNOW THAT!
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, KITAGAKI-SAN!
OF COURSE, LATER THEN!
OPEN
WAIT-- KOGA-SAN?!

UM,
PLEASE EXCUSE ME...
I KNOW THAT BOY'S A STUBBORN ONE...
...BUT YOU COULD STAND TO BE A BIT MORE CIRCUMSPECT YOURSELF AKIHITO-KUN

KOGA-SAN!
I'M SORRY THE BLOOD JUST RUSHED TO MY HEAD...
I SHOWED YOU AN UGLY SIDE OF ME...
NO...
BUT--KOGA-SAN, YOU'RE WORKING ON AN EXHIBITION PIECE NOW...?
PLEASE WAIT!
PLEASE DON'T JUST LEAVE ON YOUR OWN!
AH

JUST FOCUS ON THE EXHI~
I'LL DO IT.
THEN--YOU SHOULD SET ASIDE MY REQUEST FOR NOW.
YOU WANT A VASE FOR THE SHOP, RIGHT?
I'LL DO IT.
EH...?
WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
WA--
I'LL THINK OVER THE PRICE ON MY OWN SO...
IF YOU HAVE ANY DETAILED REQUESTS PLEASE LET ME KNOW

WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
OF COURSE I AM THRILLED YOU WANT TO TAKE IT ON
BUT YOU CAN DO MY PROJECT ANY TIME. SO...
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH THINGS--
I SIMPLY THINK YOUR REQUEST WILL BE MORE INTERESTING IS ALL
EVEN IF I WERE TO MAKE THE EXHIBITION PIECE MY TOP PRIORITY...
IF I'M NOT EXCITED ABOUT IT I WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT OUT A GOOD PIECE
.....
I'M SORRY
BUT COULD YOU PLEASE SET ASIDE MY REQUEST FOR THE TIME BEING?
...EH?

HAVING YOU TAKE ON THE PROJECT JUST OUT OF STU■■BORNNESS...
...KIND OF MAKES ME FEEL WEIRD.

CONSIDERING THE CONVERSATION I HAD WITH YOU THE OTHER DAY...
AND WHAT JUST HAPPENED AT KITAGAKI-SAN'S SHOP
IT'S CLEAR THERE'S SOMETHING BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR FATHER
東
薬
ラーメン

IF YOU WERE JUST REALLY GUNG-HO ABOUT MY PROJECT...
AND REALLY WANTED TO PRIORITIZE THAT ONE...
THEN OF COURSE I'D BE HAPPY ABOUT IT...
BUT TO BE HONEST, THAT'S NOT HOW IT SEEMS AT ALL...
IF WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE IS TRUE...
AND YOU CAN'T PRODUCE A GOOD PIECE IF YOU AREN'T EXCITED ABOUT IT...

I SEE
I'M SORRY
I'D RATHER YOU WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE REALLY EXCITED TO WORK ON IT
THEN FOR MY PIECE AS WELL

その手の熱を重ねて open.6 ✳ END

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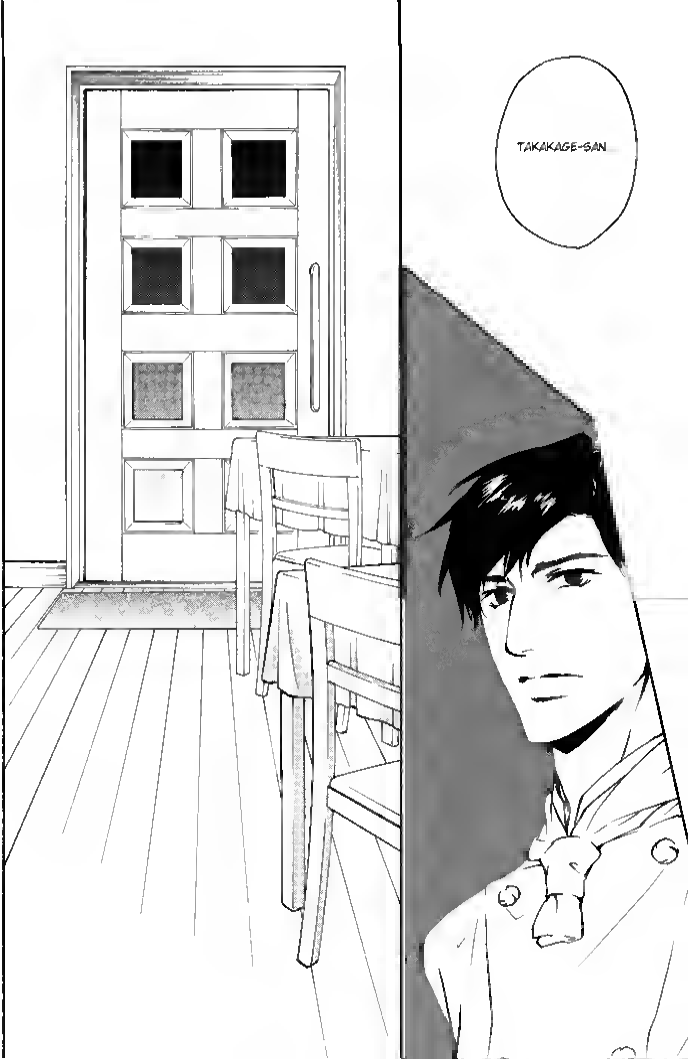
"...AND REALLY WANTED TO PRIORITIZE IT, THEN OF COURSE I'D BE HAPPY ABOUT IT."
"IF YOU WERE JUST REALLY GUNG-HO ABOUT MY PROJECT..."
Sono Te no Netsu wo Kasanete
その手の熱を重ねて
"BUT TO BE HONEST, THAT'S NOT HOW IT SEEMS AT ALL..."
WAS HE...
...DISAPPOINTED IN ME, I GUESS?


TAKAKAGE-SAN

その手の
熱を重ねて
open.1

It wasn't as if Koga-san had been particularly half-hearted about my request in the first place anyways.
I don't suppose I needed to be so insistent back then
Perhaps
he just wanted to work on an actual order instead
rather than forcing himself to work up interest

Still...
THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
PLEASE COME AGAIN!
THE LAST CUSTOMERS HAVE LEFT,
SIR!
SO I'LL GO TAKE DOWN THE SIGN OUT FRONT NOW
RIGHT PLEASE DO
I THOUGHT IT WAS GETTING CHILLY...
AH...
BUT IT'S ACTUALLY SNOWING!
CLATTER

!
UMM... GOOD EVENING.
CLATTER
KOGA-SAN?!
GOOD EVENING
WAIT--NO!
ACTUALLY TODAY I'M.
OH NO
HERE TO SPEAK WITH TAKAKAGE-SAN
JUST--WE'RE CLOSING UP NOW. SO...
AND, UMM... ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU'RE CLEANING UP.
DING

YES?
TAKASAGI
!
AH, YEAH. DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME?
IS THAT WHY YOU CAME?
OH--NO, IT'S FINE
Doesn't it seem like a serious conversation?
No clue!
So they actually hang out together outside of the shop?

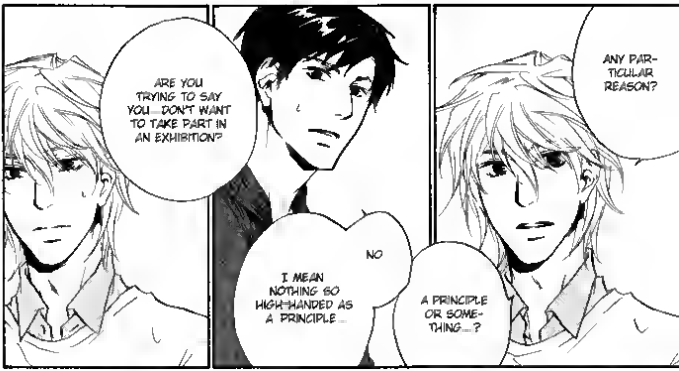
SORRY I'M TAKING OFF EARLY TONIGHT.
AH, SURE...
WOULD YOU MIND HANDLING THE CLOSE-UP?

SHUT
Kacha
I'VE TURNED ON THE HEATER, SO PLEASE HAVE A SEAT
I'LL GET US SOMETHING WARM TO DRINK
THANK YOU

I'M... REALLY SORRY FOR THAT...
UMM... ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...
I WASN'T TAKING YOUR REQUEST LIGHTLY, YOU KNOW.
BUT--JUST AS YOU SAID, I WAS BEHAVING STUBBORNLY TOWARDS MY FATHER
AND...IN THE END I WOUND UP SPEAKING QUITE RUDELY WITH YOU

I FEEL LIKE I WAS A BIT SHARP WITH YOU MYSELF, AFTER ALL
IT'S FINE
I REALLY AM SORRY
BUT WHY...
...DO YOU ACT SO STUBBORNLY WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR FATHER, KOGA-SAN?
KETTLE
IN COOKING
YOU HAVE CONTESTS AND THE SORT AS WELL, RIGHT?

HUH? OH, WELL, NO...
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN ONE?
OR THOUGHT ABOUT TAKING PART IN ONE, TAKAKAGE-SAN?

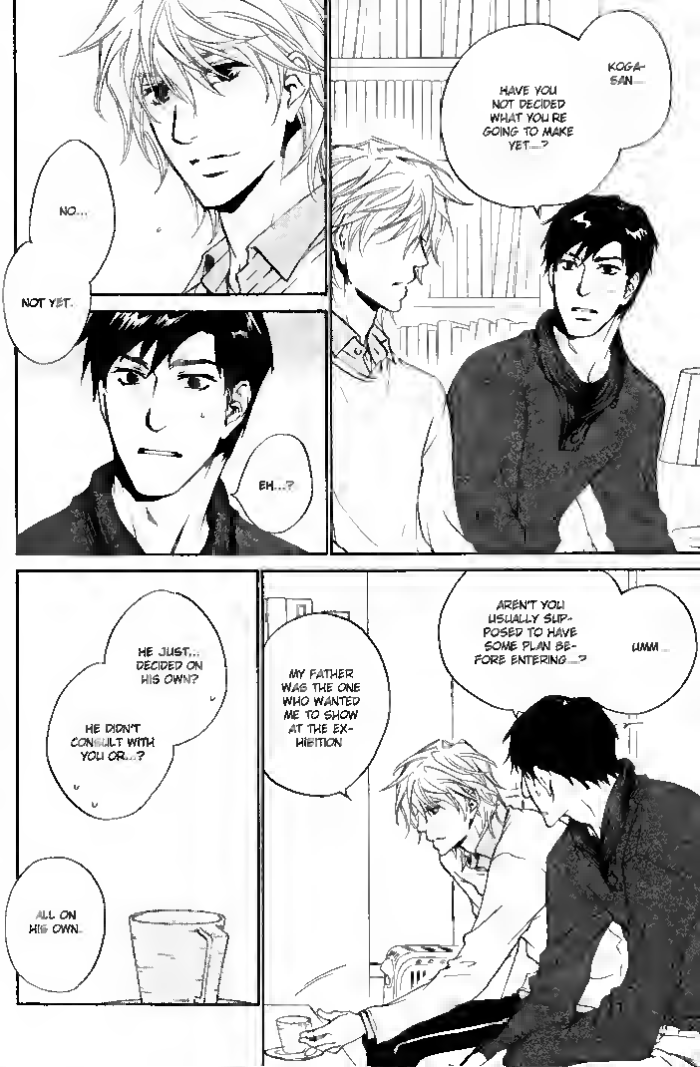

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU... DON'T WANT TO TAKE PART IN AN EXHIBITION?
NO
I MEAN NOTHING SO HIGH-HANDED AS A PRINCIPLE...
A PRINCIPLE OR SOMETHING...?
ANY PARTICULAR REASON?

LIKE--I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'M CUT OUT FOR EXHIBITIONS...
I JUST FEEL SO TORN...
IT'S NOT SO CLEAR A FEELING AS NOT WANTING TO

SO I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN EVEN BE OF ANY HELP, BUT...
WELL COOKING AND POTTERY ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FIELDS...
Drink up!
Ah, right
.....
...AND HOPE THAT MY CUSTOMERS ENJOY THEIR MEAL. THAT'S HOW I COOK
I JUST OFFER WHAT I THINK IS TASTY...
BUT I ALWAYS APPROACH MY WORK WITH THE SAME MINDSET
SURE SOMETIMES I'LL GET A WEIRD REQUEST AND HAVE TROUBLE MEETING IT

THE REASON I OPENED UP SHOP IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...WAS BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE MY CUSTOMERS' REACTIONS UP CLOSE.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH INTEREST IN CONTESTS AND THE LIKE
...FROM MY CUSTOMERS EVERY DAY
...BECAUSE I GET ALL THE FEEDBACK I NEED...
THOUGH,
IT'S STILL QUITE A HANDFUL...
...RUNNING MY OWN RESTAURANT.
Hehehe!

THOUGH FOR ME IT COMES AFTER I'VE DONE THE CREATING...
I WAS SO HAPPY...
...SEEING MY PIECES ACTUALLY BEING USED IN YOUR SHOP!
I THINK...
I UNDERSTAND THE FEELING YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
IF POSSIBLE...
I'D LOVE TO CREATE SOMETHING FOR THE EXHIBITION THAT CAN MAKE ME FEEL THE SAME WAY


KOGA-SAN...
HAVE YOU NOT DECIDED WHAT YOU RE GOING TO MAKE YET...?
NO...
NOT YET.
EH...?
AREN'T YOU USUALLY SUP-POSED TO HAVE SOME PLAN BE-FORE ENTERING...?
UMM...
MY FATHER WAS THE ONE WHO WANTED ME TO SHOW AT THE EX-HIBITION
HE JUST... DECIDED ON HIS OWN?
HE DIDN'T CONSULT WITH YOU OR...?
ALL ON HIS OWN..

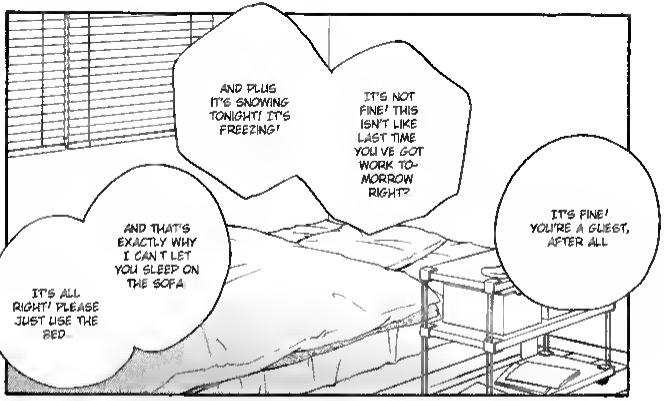
AND NOT JUST THIS EXHIBITION...
ALL OF MY ACTIVITIES...
ARE RUN THROUGH MY FATHER FIRST
APPARENTLY IT'S UNAVOIDABLE GIVEN HOW I LIKE TO HANDLE THINGS
EH?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY DISCUSSING THIS WITH YOUR FATHER?
I CAN...KIND OF UNDERSTAND THAT THOUGH

IT SOUNDS LIKE MORE THAN THE IDEA OF THE EXHIBITION ITSELF...
...YOU'RE HUNG UP ON THE FACT THAT YOUR FATHER IS THE ONE WHO'S IN CHARGE OF IT ALL.
FROM WHAT YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME...
AND IT'S NOT AS IF I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HIS FEELINGS, WANTING TO BE IN CHARGE
I'M SURE HE PUT SOME REAL THOUGHT INTO IT WHEN HE DECIDED ABOUT THE EXHIBITION, TOO.
SO RATHER THAN ASKING HIM TO JUST LET YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT,
WHY NOT TRY EXPLAINING THAT WITH YOUR FEELINGS AS THEY ARE RIGHT NOW. YOU CAN'T FOCUS ON YOUR WORK?

YOUR FATHER'S IN CHARGE OF HANDLING AFFAIRS IN THE CBR MICS INDUSTRY, AFTER ALL.
I'M SURE IF YOU JUST TALK WITH HIM
HE'LL COME AROUND EVENTUALLY
AND ALSO
THIS IS JUST MY OPINION AS AN OUTSIDER, BUT
YOU... THINK?
IT CAN'T HURT TO TRY

I'M YOUR FAN, AFTER ALL
I WANT YOU TO MAKE SOMETHING YOU CAN BE PROUD OF
IF THERE'S NO REASON YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO DO IT RIGHT NOW
YOU CAN ALWAYS PUT OFF THE EXHIBITION UNTIL LATER
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
YEAH...
YOU'RE RIGHT!
I'LL HEAD HOME RIGHT NOW AND SPEAK WITH MY FATHER!
stand
I'M GLAD I SPOKE WITH YOU TODAY, TAKAKAGE-SAN.
EH...?

EH?
YOU'RE LEAVING NOW?
IT'S WELL PAST THE LAST TRAINS NOW
Just like last time!
AH...!
I'M TROUBLING YOU AGAIN
I'M SORRY...
SNOWING UP AT THE TIME YOU DID I ASSUMED YOU INTENDED TO SPEND THE NIGHT TO BE-GIN WITH
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S JUST HOW YOU ARE
WELL FEEL FREE TO USE THIS ROOM AGAIN
EH?!
NO WAY! I'LL SLEEP ON THE COUCH TONIGHT!


IT'S FINE! YOU'RE A GUEST, AFTER ALL
IT'S NOT FINE! THIS ISN'T LIKE LAST TIME YOU'VE GOT WORK TOMORROW RIGHT?
AND PLUS IT'S SNOWING TONIGHT! IT'S FREEZING!
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CAN'T LET YOU SLEEP ON THE SOFA
IT'S ALL RIGHT! PLEASE JUST USE THE BED...

--LET'S SLEEP IN THE BED TOGETHER.
THEN--
BA-
-M!

EH?

HEY
YOU DO REMEMBER THAT I SAID I LIKE YOU RIGHT...?
EH...?
AH!
IF WE SNUGGLE UP IT'LL BE REALLY WARM, AFTER ALL!
WHY NOT?!
UH NO THAT'S A LITTLE...
SO...LET'S SLEEP TOGETHER.
I KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS
...YEAH, SO SLEEPING TOGETHER AND LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN LIKE THAT IS...
IT'S FINE
I'M SURE HE DIDN'T COMPLETELY FORGET, BUT GOING BACK TO SQUARE ONE LIKE THIS IS JUST

However...
COME ON TAKAKAGE-SAN!
LET'S SLEEP!
pat
EVEN IF HE'S SUGGESTING WE SLEEP TOGETHER SO EAGERLY...
AM I REALLY JUSTIFIED IN SAYING, DON'T MIND IF I DO"?
...STILL, IT'S KIND OF HARD TO BRING MYSELF TO DO THIS...
DOES HE SERIOUSLY UNDERSTAND THIS...?
ALL RIGHT THEN...
I'M TURNING OUT THE LIGHTS.
LOOKING AT HIM NOW...
...IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME THINK THAT SEXINESS I SAW BACK THEN WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION...

.....
THIS BED DEFINITELY SMELLS LIKE YOU, TAKAKAGE-SAN!
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
HAHA.
THIS IS KINDA...
rustle
SLEEPING TOGETHER LIKE THIS, THOUGH IT'S EASY TO TELL!
WHEN I STAYED OVER THE OTHER NIGHT, TOO...
I THOUGHT MAYBE THE SMELL WAS FROM YOU
NO--NO, I DON'T MEAN THAT!
ARE YOU... SAYING THAT I STINK?

I REALLY LIKE YOUR SCENT!
brush
YOUR FINGERS ARE COLD
curl
EH-?

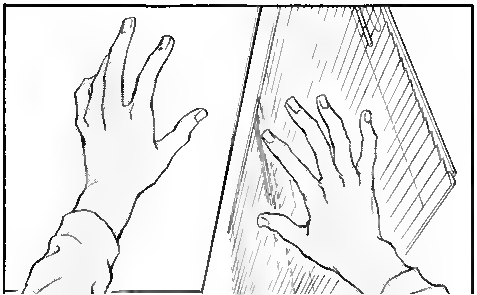
GEEZ
blush
AH...
IT'S NOT EVEN LIKE THIS IS OUR FIRST KISS...
WHAT AM I SO NERVOUS FOR HERE?
hide
I'M NOT SOME TEENAGER...

lean..
Haa.
Ha.
Nn.
Ngh
kiss
kiss
kiss
IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS...PLEASE TELL ME NOW.
...!
...DO MY BEST TO REIN MYSELF IN.
I'LL
huff
slide

Nn
Ngh-!
Ah!
SHUDDER
kiss
kiss
kiss
Ah
Ngh
Hn
Nn...
slide

MM...
DON'T TOUCH THA--!
TAKA KAGE-SA...
AH...!
!
Ah!
KOGA-SAN...
YOU LIKE HOW THIS FEELS
I'M GLAD
Ngh...!
Ha...
HAFF
HAFF
HAFF
BADUMP

!?
squeeze
!!!
Ngh.
SHOCK
-!
Ha.
Haa
Nn
Nm
Nn
-!
Haa
Ah-!



.....
.....
HUH..?
sit up

SHAKE
TAKA-KAGE-SAN
EXCUSE ME? TAKAKAGE-SAN.
SHAKE
SHAKE
ON!
ONONON!
I
WHAT...?
I'M...
...GOING HOME.
RIGHT NOW.
Huh?!

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Translation: fencer-x@livejournal

Editing: fencer-x@livejournal

SFX: RUSTLE
ハラリ
その手の軌を重ねて
Sono Te no Keisu wo Kasanete
ZIP...

その手の熱を重ねて

open.8

CLOSED
Lunch 11:30~14:30
Dinner 18:30~23:00
TENKEI
SURE.
FOR THE PHONE MESSAGE TO PLAY DURING WINTER BREAK...
YOU WANT ME TO RECORD IT?
AS FOR THE CONTENT, JUST REVIEW THIS PAPER.
12/31~1/
WAIT JUST A MOMENT. I'LL TRY TO WRITE SOMETHING...
MY OWN STYLE...
Geez!
JUST PUT SOMETHING TOGETHER IN YOUR OWN STYLE!
EH??
PLEASE WRITE A SCRIPT!

23
24
30
31
It's been nearly 10 days since Koga-san spent the night at my place.
12
Since then, he hasn't shown himself at all.
"I'M GOING HOME RIGHT NOW"
Back then...
I honestly thought...
...that he was responding to my feelings, but...
LUNCH IS READY!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SIR...?
HMM, YEAH...
IT'S NOT BAD.
NOW YOU JUST HAVE TO WORK ON BEING ABLE TO MAKE THIS AGAIN WITHOUT TAKASUGI'S HELP!
...then does that mean that to him, what we did was no big deal...?
If...he's not avoiding me because of some adverse feelings...
Y'THINK??
YOU'RE GETTING GOOD, KIDA-KUN!!
WELL, YOU STILL NEED A BIT MORE FINESSE...
Though taking into account his history of coming, I don't suppose this gap is very strange...
Even so... if that were the case, there'd be no reason to avoid me for 10 days.
GOTCHA!
I NEED TO MAKE A PHONE CALL
OOSAWA-SAN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THAT MESSAGE AFTER YOU FINISH
RIGHT!
IT WAS DELICIOUS
PICK UP
.....

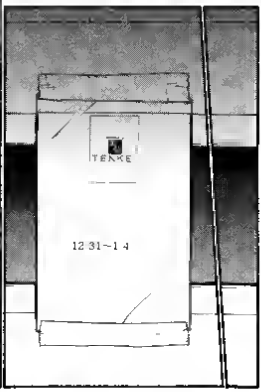
I'VE GOT HIS INFORMATION IN THE COMPUTER THANKS TO THAT BUSINESS CARD HE GAVE ME...
I COULD ALWAYS MAKE AN EXCUSE FOR CALLING
AND SAY I WANTED TO LET HIM KNOW ABOUT OUR WINTER BREAK...
click
THIS IS RIDICULOUS
DAMN...
I SHOULD'VE ASKED FOR HIS CELL PHONE NUMBER...
RIIIIING
Yes? This is Koga Ceramics.
HELLO?
THIS IS NAGISA, OF THE TRATTORIA TENKEI
COULD I SPEAK WITH KOGA NAGISA-SAN?

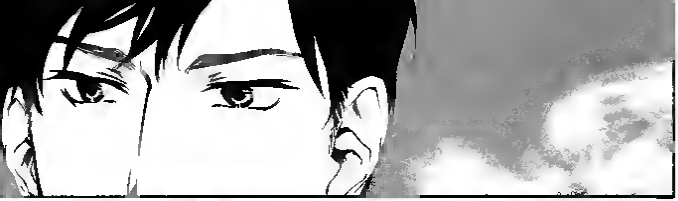
Nagisa-san is in the middle of e project and can't be pulled eway at the momant.
I can have him call you back at e later time if you like...?
I'm terribly sorry.
'In the middle of a project'.. ?
THEN, COULD YOU PLEASE HAVE HIM CONTACT ME?
I... SEE
"I DON'T KNOW IF I'M EVEN CUT OUT FOR IT—"
The exhibition project he was talking about...?
I suppose that means he spoke with his father and cleared up his worries...
...and now he's able to focus on creating...

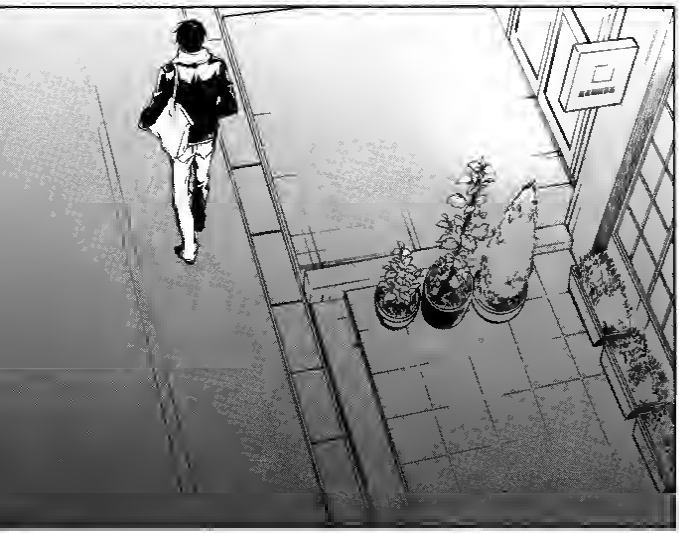
I DON'T SUPPOSE HIM DISAPPEARING CAN REALLY BE HELPED...
THEN, WELL...
IF THAT'S THE CASE...

KNOCK KNOCK
EXCUSE ME?
CREAK
YOU RECEIVED A PHONE CALL SO I'LL LEAVE THE MESSAGE HERE!
...CAN HE NOT HEAR ME...?

GOOD WORK TODAY!
YEAH, YOU GUYS AS WELL!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR, SIR!


TENKE
12 31~1 4



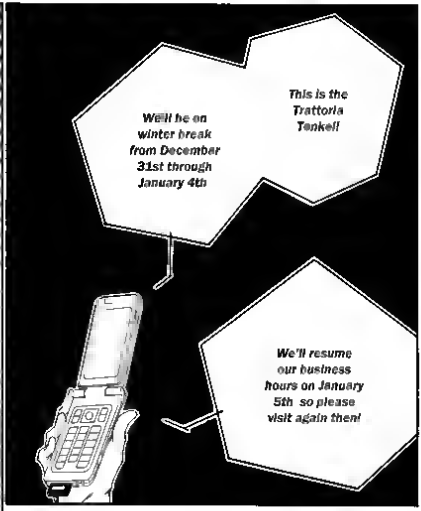


shhh...

A NOTE...?
AH... I WONDER IF I GOT A CALL...
WHA...
TAKAKAGE-SAN?!
3:35 pm
Phone call from a Nagisa-sama of the trattoria 'Tenkai'
Please call him back.
3:35 PM... I GUESS IT WAS DURING THE STORE'S AFTERNOON BREAK...
GEEZ I'D BETTER CALL HIM BACK RIGHT AWAY...!

I'LL HAVE TO CALL FROM THE HOUSE
THE OFFICE UGH, IT'S CLOSED

OF COURSE... IT'S WELL PAST CLOSING TIME...
AND THEY'RE CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR...
slump


This is the Trattoria Tenkei!
We'll be on winter break from December 31st through January 4th
We'll resume our business hours on January 5th so please visit again then!

I ONLY KNOW THE RESTAURANT'S NUMBER.
I WONDER WHAT HE WANTED
...THAT MAKES ME WONDER. WHAT'S HIS FAMILY LIKE?
MAYBE I COULD GO SEE HIM DIRECTLY TOMORROW...?
OR WAIT. MAYBE HE'S GONE TO SEE HIS FOLKS

Sigh

BUT WELL...
IF I SEE HIM NOW... I MIGHT JUST BLURT IT OUT
MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST THAT I COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM...

HAPPY...
...NEW YEAR!
COME ON NAGISA
YOU'LL DRINK SOME MORE, WON'T YOU?
OF COURSE!

SIR, NAGISA HAS A LOW TOLERANCE SO GO EASY ON HIM
OH COME ON, IT'S THE NEW YEAR!

YOU'RE EXHIBITING FOR THE KUYOU AWARD FAIR, RIGHT?
HOW ARE THINGS GOING THEN?

NAGISA WAS COOPED UP IN THE WORK-SHOP ALL YEAR'S END AFTER ALL!

GREAT
I HAD SOME TROUBLE DE-CIDING WHAT TO MAKE INITIALLY...
BUT THEN SOMEONE ASKED ME TO CRAFT A FLOWER VASE FOR THEIR SHOP

THIS IS THE FIRST I'M HEARING OF THIS
ONCE I GOT THE IMAGE OF THAT DOWN, I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF FROM WANTING TO MAKE IT!
SO I'M GOING TO SUBMIT IT FOR THE EXHIBITION,
AND ONCE THE FAIR IS OVER, I'LL GIVE IT TO THE PERSON WHO COMMISSIONED IT.
WHA...

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU THINKING?!
DECIDING ALL THIS WITHOUT ONCE CONSULTING ME!
STAND
OH...
I WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN WORKING I MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN...
ANYWAYS--
USING A COMMISSIONED ITEM AS YOUR EXHIBITION PIECE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!
THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE FOR THAT COMMISSION
IF NECESSARY, I'LL TALK TO THEM MYSELF
WE CAN JUST START EVERYTHING OVER AGAIN
BUT--WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THAT?!
THE REASON I WAS ABLE TO DECIDE WHAT TO MAKE WAS THANKS TO TAKAKAGE-SAN!
I'M TELLING YOU TO FOCUS YOUR ENERGIES ON YOUR EXHIBITION!
TAKA-KAGE...?
THE MAN FROM THAT RESTAURANT?

WE CAN'T HAVE A FATHER-SON FIGHT AT NEW YEAR'S
DEAR!
NAGISA!
GEEZ
.....
sit
sit
COOL YOUR HEADS, THE BOTH OF YOU
WAIT TO START THIS UP AGAIN UNTIL THE 7TH WHEN THE WORKSHOP OPENS
SET ASIDE SUCH DISCUSSIONS AT NEW YEAR'S

UNDERSTAND?

I DID IT AGAIN...
TAKAKAGE-SAN EVEN SAID
"IF YOU JUST TALK IT OUT"
I WON-DER
TAKAKAGE-SAN
IF I CAN REALLY GET HIM TO UN-DERSTAND
"HE'S IN CHARGE OF HANDLING AFFAIRS IN THE CERAMICS IN-DUSTRY, AFTER ALL..."
"I'M SURE IF YOU JUST TALK WITH HIM, HE'LL COME AROUND EVENTUALLY."

WELCOME!
TENKEI
HAPPY NEW YEAR, OOSAWA-SAN!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU CAME HERE FOR LUNCH!

I WAS ALL OVER THE PLACE AND DIDN'T SEE THE NOTE UNTIL LATER...
I DID TRY TO RETURN YOUR CALL. BUT IT WAS AFTER YOU'D ALREADY CLOSED...
SO... WHAT DID YOU NEED?
...NOTHING
pull
WELCOME, KOGA-SAN
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
OH, I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE PHONE CALL ON NEW YEAR'S EVE...
I SIMPLY WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR NEW YEAR'S BUSINESS HOURS...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE!
EH? SERIOUSLY?!

YES WELL...
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, KOGA-SAN?
DID YOU GO HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

THEN WE HAD VARIOUS RELATIVES COME BY ON THE 2ND AND 3RD
PRETTY NORMAL
I HAD SOME OSECHI FROM A FAVORITE RESTAURANT OF MY MOTHER'S
THOUGH, WELL... MOST OF THEM CAME TO SEE MY GRANDFATHER.

LET ME TAKE THIS EMPTY PLATE FOR YOU
OH, SURE.
I'LL POUR YOU SOME POST-MEAL COFFEE
THANK YOU
settle

ONLY THREE STAFF MEMBERS HERE TODAY HUH?
TAKASUGI WAS DELAYED IN HIS RETURN DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.
HE FLEW?

THANKS
HERE'S YOUR COFFEE
I'M SORRY FOR THE WAIT
...COULD I HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME...?
DURING THE SHOP'S AFTERNOON BREAK
...KOGA-SAN
IF POSSIBLE...

BUT I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT HE'D INVITE ME OUT LIKE THIS
I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT?
I ONLY CAME TO SEE TAKAKAGE-SAN HOPING TO BE CHEERED UP
I'VE GOTTA MAKE SURE I DON'T SPILL ABOUT THE PROJECT!
AND HE WENT AND GAVE ME THAT ADVICE
SO I WANT IT TO BE AFTER I HAVE A PROPER TALK WITH MY FATHER.
I WANT TO SURPRISE HIM WHEN IT'S DONE AFTER ALL.

I'M SORRY FOR THE WAIT
AH WELCOME
!
OPEN
NOT AT ALL
GREAT WORK TODAY
take
EH?
WELL
SHALL WE GO FOR A WALK ?
IT'S FINE
I INVITED YOU AFTER ALL
UMM.. I CAN PAY FOR THE TEA MYSELF
HUH ?
I THOUGHT WE'D TALK WHILE HE HAD LUNCH

I'M SORRY
BUT IT WAS DELICIOUS
WHAT'S WRONG? SOMETHING SEEMS DIFFERENT...
YOU REALLY...
...ARE THE SAME AS ALWAYS, AREN'T YOU, KOGA-SAN?
mutter
?
UMM...
I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT ?
I CALLED YOU OVER THE HOLIDAYS REMEMBER?
EH? YEAH...

THE PERSON WHO TOOK MY CALL...
...SAID THAT YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PROJECT.
EH...?
flustered
AH!
NO, THAT'S--
HOW DO I PUT IT, IT'S...
YOU TALKED ABOUT THE EXHIBITION PIECE... AND I WAS THRILLED WHEN YOU SEEMED TO HAVE FOUND YOUR INSPIRATION
THAT NIGHT YOU STAYED AT MY PLACE...
SO WHILE I WAS SAD WHEN YOU LEFT SO SUDDENLY...
I FIGURED IT COULDN'T BE HELPED IF AT LEAST YOU'D GOTTEN INSPIRED...

!
THAT'S
BUT I NEVER
THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULDN'T AT LEAST TELL ME
BADUMP

THAT NIGHT...
YOU DIDN'T PUSH ME AWAY...
...BUT THAT'S SIMPLY ALL IT WAS
MY PLACE IN YOUR MIND REMAINS UNCHANGED...

THAT'S ALL IT WAS TO YOU...
AND I UNDERSTAND THAT NOW

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Scans: amyused@livejournal

Translation: fencer-x@livejournal

Editing: fencer-x@livejournal, aethereal

その手の熱を重ねて

open.9

I WONDER IF I SHOULD HAVE GONE AFTER HIM BACK THEN
BUT... MY FEET WOULDN'T MOVE...

frown
WHAT IF HE EVEN SAID SOMETHING LIKE HE DIDN'T NEED ANYTHING I MADE NOW...?
EVEN IF I TOLD HIM ABOUT IT NOW I DOUBT HE'D BE HAPPY
BUT WELL...
IF I HADN'T KEPT IT A SECRET HOPING TO SURPRISE HIM...
...AND JUST TOLD HIM ABOUT IT...
peep
HAVE YOU BEEN IN HERE THE WHOLE TIME SINCE GETTING BACK...?
WHAT ABOUT DINNER?
DON'T NEED ANY

IT'S CHILLY—AT LEAST TURN ON THE HEATER
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
WHAT'S THIS ?
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE WAY I RAISED YOU?
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT
MOTHER...
HM?
WHY—DO I HAVE THIS PERSONALITY?

I JUST...THINK THAT THE WAY I GET OBSESSED WITH SOMETHING AND CAN'T FOCUS ON ANYTHING ELSE...
...PROBABLY ISN'T A GOOD THING...
WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR BAD,
YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER IN THAT RESPECT
WHAT?!
WHY HIM?!
THE WAY YOU CAN'T SEE THINGS ANY OTHER WAY ONCE YOU GET AN IDEA IN YOUR HEAD!

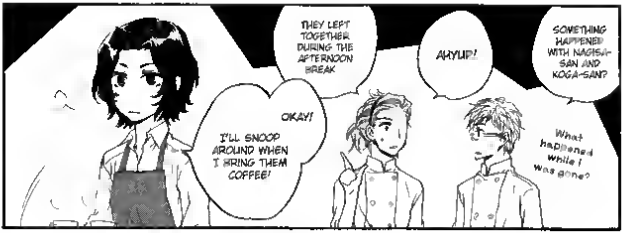
.....
THINK BACK TO THAT FIGHT YOU HAD AT NEW YEAR'S...
YOU DIDN'T THINK FOR ONE MOMENT THAT HE'D OBJECT TO YOUR USING A COMMISSION FOR THE EXHIBITION
AND YOUR FATHER WAS AS STUBBORN AS ALWAYS, SAYING IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION
WELL,
PART OF THE REASON YOUR FATHER WAS SO ANGRY
WAS BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A SHOCK, I SUPPOSE
...HOW WAS IT A SHOCK?
AFTER ALL HE'S BEEN WORKING HARD JUST FOR YOU
...AND YOU DIDN'T CONSULT WITH HIM AT ALL
HE'S THE ONE WHO DECIDES EVERYTHING ON HIS OWN!
JUST FOR ME...?

EXACTLY.
YOU'RE BOTH DOING THE SAME THING.
YOU'RE JUST ALIKE!
YOU AND HE SHOULD TALK MORE PROPERLY
YOU'LL DISCUSS THE EXHIBITION PIECE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, RIGHT?
...YEAH.
YOU SEEM TO BE THINKING THINGS OVER YOURSELF
BUT YOUR FATHER'S NOT AS HARD-HEADED AS YOU THINK
CLATTER
...THOUGH I WASN'T WORRYING ABOUT FATHER JUST NOW...
I'LL SET ASIDE A PLATE FOR YOU, SO COME AND EAT IT WHEN YOU'RE READY
B'BYE THEN!

TAKAKAGE-SAN GAVE ME THE SAME ADVICE. HUH
BUT

flip

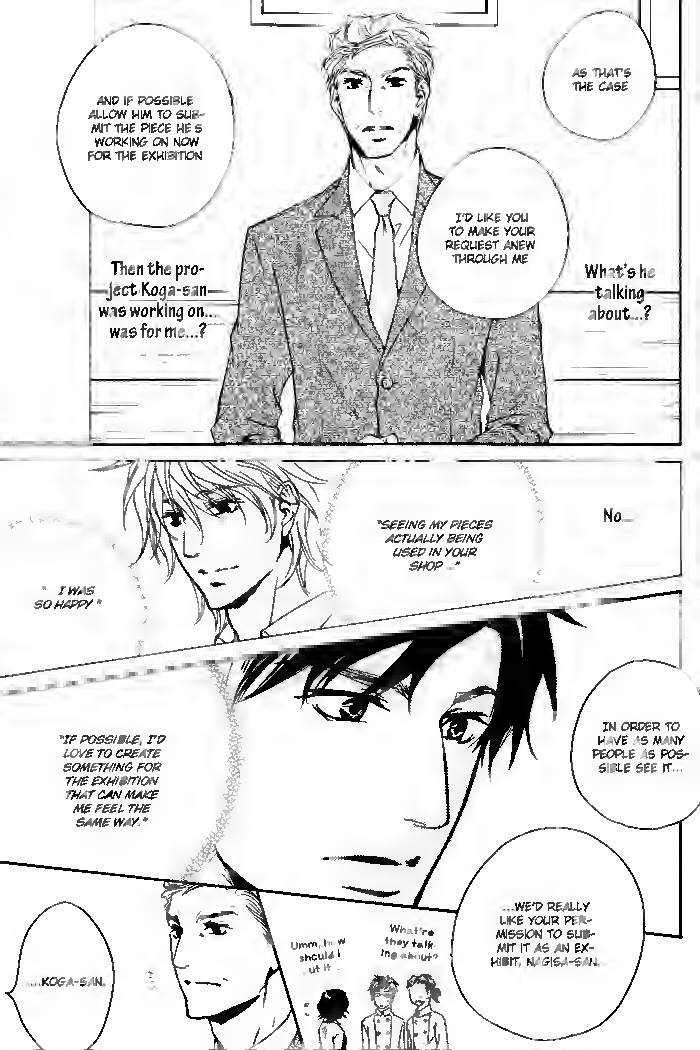
CLOSED
Lunch 11:30~14:30
Dinner 18:30~23:00
OOSAWA-SAN—
WHO'S THAT?
HMM, WELL HE INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS 'KOGA', BUT
'S THAT MEAN HE'S RELATED TO THAT KOGA?!
VERY LIKELY
THE OWNER LOOKED QUITE STRANGE AFTER HE GOT BACK FROM LUNCH WITH KOGA-SAN—
IT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT


THEY LEFT TOGETHER DURING THE AFTERNOON BREAK
AHA!!
SOMETHING HAPPENED WITH NAGISA-SAN AND KOGA-SAN?
OKAY!
I'LL SNOOP AROUND WHEN I BRING THEM COFFEE!
What happened while I was gone?

settle
I APOLOGIZE...
...FOR SUCH AN IMPOLITE REQUEST...
EXCUSE ME...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU DURING YOUR AFTERNOON BREAK
NOT AT ALL
SO, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU...?

... WOULD YOU MIND LETTING HIM START OVER ON IT?
THE COMMISSION YOU'VE ASKED OF NAGISA...

EH...?
UMM, START OVER...?
WAIT YOU... KNOW ABOUT MY REQUEST TO HIM...?
INDEED I DO
Eh...?
I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'RE AWARE OF THIS OR NOT
BUT MY SON NAOHISA...
...IS PLANNING ON USING YOUR COMMISSIONED WORK FOR HIS EXHIBITION PIECE
HAS HE...NOT SPOKEN OF THIS TO YOU?
Ah!
NO...
HE HASN'T
I SEE
hmm

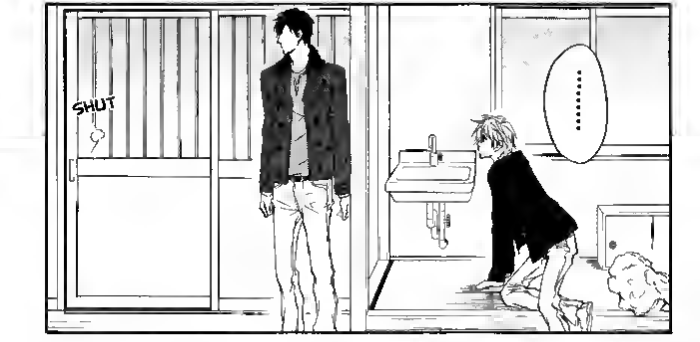

AND IF POSSIBLE ALLOW HIM TO SUBMIT THE PIECE HE'S WORKING ON NOW FOR THE EXHIBITION
AS THAT'S THE CASE
I'D LIKE YOU TO MAKE YOUR REQUEST ANEW THROUGH ME
Then the project Koga-san was working on... was for me...?
What's he talking about...?
No...
"SEEING MY PIECES ACTUALLY BEING USED IN YOUR SHOP..."
"I WAS SO HAPPY."
"IF POSSIBLE, I'D LOVE TO CREATE SOMETHING FOR THE EXHIBITION THAT CAN MAKE ME FEEL THE SAME WAY."
IN ORDER TO HAVE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE SEE IT...
...WE'D REALLY LIKE YOUR PERMISSION TO SUBMIT IT AS AN EXHIBIT, NAGISA-SAN.
...KOGA-SAN.
Umm, how should I put it...
What're they talking about?

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T RESPOND
UNTIL I'VE BEEN PERMITTED THAT MUCH
COULD YOU ALLOW ME TO DISCUSS THIS WITH NAGISA-SAN HIMSELF?
I UNDERSTAND
EVERYONE
I'M SORRY BUT COULD YOU HANDLE THE EVENING SHIFT ALONE?
EH?!
I NEED TO STEP OUT FOR A BIT
I THINK I'LL BE BACK DURING SERVICE THOUGH
IS IT SOMETHING URGENT?

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ONCE I RETURN.
IT'S A PERSONAL MATTER, BUT IT'S QUITE IMPORTANT.
YES.
THANKS
PLEASE LEAVE IT TO US!
WE UNDERSTAND!

EH?!
TAKAKAGE-SAN...?!
GREETINGS
EH?!
BUT-- WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
I BROUGHT HIM HERE
IT SEEMS HE WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU

WAI--
KOGA-SAN,
I'M SORRY, BUT COULD I SPEAK WITH NAGISA-SAN ALONE?
DON'T TELL ME YOU WENT TO SEE TAKAKAGE-SAN...?!
WHAT IS THIS?!


SHUT
.....

I'M SORRY FOR THE SUDDEN VISIT
I CAME WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WERE PLANNING TO USE MY COMMISSION
...AS YOUR EXHIBITION PIECE.
...AH...

I'M SO SORRY!
I WANTED TO MAKE IT IN SECRET
AND SURPRISE YOU WHEN I GAVE IT TO YOU
AND THAT'S ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT...
I KNOW I SHOULD'VE DISCUSSED IT WITH YOU!
I KNEW IT...
COME ON LIFT YOUR HEAD...
lift
THAT SIMPLY MEANS...
YOU WANTED TO MAKE ME HAPPY, RIGHT?
STILL...
WELL, YES BUT...
I WASN'T THINKING OF YOUR REAL FEELINGS AT ALL...

IT SEEMS YOU GOT A LITTLE LOST WHEN I LEFT YOU ALONE...
I'M SORRY
...SHOULD'VE TRIED HARDER TO LISTEN TO YOU...
I ALSO
hug
!

IT IS
THOUGH I HAVEN'T FIRED IT YET.

IS THAT
...WHAT YOU'RE WORKING ON NOW?

I SEE...
"...WE'D REALLY LIKE YOUR PERMISSION TO SUBMIT IT AS AN EXHIBIT"
"IN ORDER TO HAVE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE SEE IT..."

REGARDING OUR CONVERSATION EARLIER,
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DECLINE.
NAGISA-SAN IS CREATING THAT WORK
...IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY WISHES AFTER ALL
AND NOW THAT I'VE SEEN IT, I JUST CAN'T GIVE IT UP

IS IT NOT POSSIBLE TO LET HIM DO AS HE WISHES
AND ALLOW NAGISA-KUN TO SUBMIT IT AS HIS EXHIBITION PIECE AS WELL?

BUT IF HE'S TO USE THIS PIECE FOR THE EXHIBITION,
THEN WE'LL BE PRICING IT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS VALUATION BY THE CERAMICS COMMUNITY
THEN I SUPPOSE THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT ANOTHER TIME

HAVE YOU...
...DISCUSSED A PRICE WITH MY NAGISA?
NO, NOT YET

WOULD YOU BE ALL RIGHT WITH THAT?
YOU MEAN IT'LL BE MORE EXPENSIVE IF THE RECEPTION IS GOOD?!
NATURALLY
THE PRICE SHOULD REFLECT THE VALUE OF THE ARTIST AS WELL AS THE ART.
WHAT'S THAT?!
WAI--
KOGA... NAGIE-SAN...
IF IT'S A PRICE SUITING THE VALUE...
NO.
I KNEW FULL WELL IT WOULD COME TO THIS, SO...
TAKAKAGE-SAN CHOSE MY WORK...
...WITHOUT PAYING ATTENTION TO MY NAME OR TITLE...

THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH MY SUGGESTION IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IF YOU'LL JUST START THE COMMISION OVER, THEN YOU CAN ATTACH ANY PRICE YOU LIKE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING!
THE REASON I EVEN THOUGHT TO MAKE THAT PIECE WAS BECAUSE OF HIM
I MADE IT WITH THE VERY INTENTION OF GIVING IT TO HIM---
--SO STARTING OVER IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!
SO FOR THIS COMMISSION...
I WANT HIM TO HAVE IT WITHOUT ANY PRICE ATTACHED

IF I CAN'T USE IT AS BOTH...
...THEN I WON'T SUBMIT ANYTHING TO THE EXHIBITION!
THEN...
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO IN THE FIRST PLACE?
...DID YOU NOT WANT ME TO GET ANGRY WITH YOU?
OR DID YOU THINK THAT IF YOU JUST SUBMITTED SOMETHING YOU ALREADY HAD, IT WOULD BE EASIER?
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!

WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!
YOU USED TO BE A POTTER YOURSELF!
CLATTER

MY APOLOGIES...
WE'VE EMBARRASSED OURSELVES IN FRONT OF YOU AGAIN...
NO...
WELL, FOR NOW, COULD I ASK YOU TO LEAVE?
ONCE WE'VE SORTED THINGS OUT ON OUR END...
I'LL BE SURE TO CONTACT YOU

KNOCK KNOCK
I'M REALLY SORRY, TAKAKAGE-SAN.
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY...
NAH, I GOT TO TALK PROPERLY WITH YOU AFTER ALL.
AND EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT DONE, I GOT TO SEE THAT PIECE...

.....
KOGA-SAN, DESPITE WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE...
YOU REALLY DO WANT TO SUBMIT THAT PIECE TO THE EXHIBITION, RIGHT?
HAH...
AS EXPECTED OF YOU, TAKAKAGE-SAN.
YOU UNDERSTOOD.
EVEN THOUGH FATHER DIDN'T AT ALL...

MY MOTHER TOLD ME THAT HE'S NOT AS HARD-HEADED AS I THINK
BUT I JUST CAN'T SEE IT HER WAY

IF YOU WALK UP THIS WAY
AND TURN LEFT, YOU SHOULD FIND A BUS STOP
WILL YOU BE OKAY?
THERE AREN'T MANY BUSES SO WE COULD JUST CALL A TAXI...?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S JUST ONE AN HOUR, RIGHT?
I'LL BE FINE

EH? YOUR ROOM?
I RARELY USE IT SO...
I ONLY JUST CHARGED IT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE THE OTHER DAY!
I LEFT MY PHONE IN MY ROOM, SO WAIT HERE...
OH RIGHT!
BEFORE I LEAVE COULD I GET YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER?
OH!
I KEEP FORGETTING TO ASK...
infrared transfer...
NOW I CAN CALL YOU WHENEVER I LIKE!
THANK GOODNESS!
NO MORE NEAR MISSES LIKE OVER THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY!

...How will things work out with his father and the exhibition..?

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Translation: fencer-x@livejournal

Editing: fencer-x@livejournal, aethereal

Thanks to the fact that I was able to return sooner than expected and that Takasugi handled things well while I was gone...
the evening service ended without incident.
その手の熱を重ねて
Sono Te No Netsu wo Kasanete

After we closed shop, I explained to the employees why I had to leave so suddenly.

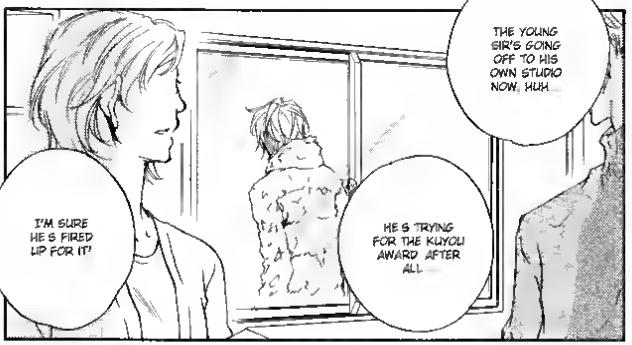
UMM, IS
THAT SOMETHING THAT COULDN'T BE DISCUSSED ON THE PHONE?
...TO DISCUSS A PROJECT HE'S WORKING ON FOR THE SHOP?
SO YOU HAD TO LEAVE...
KOGA-SAN... IS A POTTER?

ACTUALLY I JUST MISSED TALKING WITH KOGA-SAN ABOUT IT YESTERDAY
WELL? IT WASN'T AN EMERGENCY YANNO?
JUST A LITTLE PROBLEM, RIGHT?
Must refrain from humoring him
Sorry
SO I REALLY WANTED TO SEE HIM IN PERSON TO SORT THINGS OUT
At any rate, they seemed to understand
Siiigh...
settle
AS EXPECTED I'M PRETTY BEAT
"IF I CAN'T USE IT AS BOTH THEN I WON'T SUBMIT ANYTHING TO THE EXHIBITION!"

What Koga-san's father said...
From a business perspective, it's not unexpected.
But...
"I KNEW YOU'D UNDERSTAND, TAKAKAGE-SAN."
IS THERE...
...NOTHING I CAN DO, I WONDER...?

その手の熱を重ねて

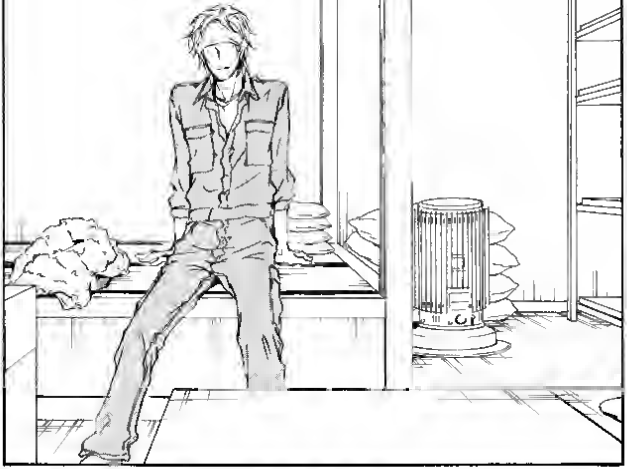
open.10


THE YOUNG SIR'S GOING OFF TO HIS OWN STUDIO NOW, HUH...
HE'S TRYING FOR THE KUYOU AWARD AFTER ALL...
I'M SURE HE'S FIRED UP FOR IT!

INDEED!
HE WAS SO FOCUSED OVER THE YEAR-END HOLIDAYS AFTER ALL!

rattle
clunk

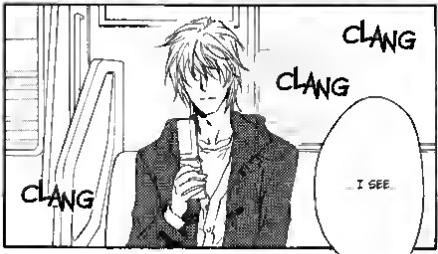
SOMETHING DEFINITELY FEELS OFF
Sit
.....
GEEZ
WHAT AM I DOING...?



FOR THE GALLERY MEETING
I'LL MOVE THINGS ALONG ON THIS SCHEDULE
THANK YOU!

...IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NAGISA, HE'S NOT THERE.
SHE SAID HE LEFT, SAYING HE'D EAT DINNER ON HIS OWN
WHEN I ASKED SAYOKO
S
SIR...!

.....
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF HIS EXHIBITION PIECE TODAY...?


CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
...I SEE...

Nagisa Takakage
090XXXXXXX

I'M SORRY
I KNOW YOU TOLD US TO PUT IT OFF UNTIL WORK STARTED UP...
WELL NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK...
SO YOU ALREADY BUTTED HEADS OVER IT YESTERDAY...

I SUPPOSE.
IT DEFINITELY HAS APPEAL, EVEN HALF-FINISHED AS IT IS...
BUT, SIR-- DON'T YOU THINK HE SHOULD EXHIBIT THAT PIECE?
IT WON'T MERELY BE A PROBLEM OF EXHIBITING OR NOT...
IF YOU BOTH DON'T GIVE IN A BIT...
YOU'LL INCONVENIENCE THAT CUSTOMER AS WELL.

IT'S AS IF HE WANTS TO GIVE FORM TO WHATEVER'S WELLING UP INSIDE OF HIM
HE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE FIRED UP
...BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A FRONT TO ME

DOESN'T IT FEEL DIFFERENT FROM ALL HIS WORKS THUS FAR?
WHAT SORT OF EMOTIONS DID NAGISA PUT INTO THAT PIECE, I WONDER...?
...WOULD BE NAGISA HIMSELF
I SUPPOSE THE ONLY PERSON WHO'D KNOW WHAT WENT INTO IT...
FOR THOSE FEELINGS TO COME OUT AS SOMETHING LIKE THIS EVEN AS A TIME-KILLER
DOESN'T IT REMIND YOU OF SOMEONE...?
YOU HAVE A POINT.
BUT...

AKIHITO.

XX/01/07 14:45
Kaga Nagisa
Hello
Good work today
Would it be all right
if I come over to your
place after work?
-END-

TENKEI

SLAM

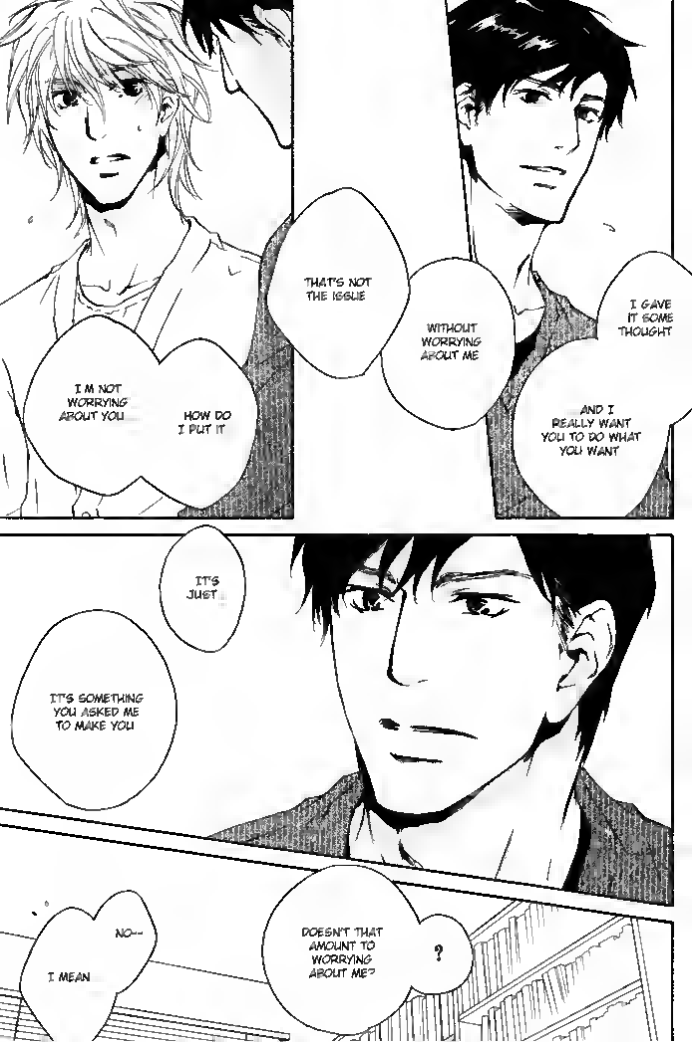
I'M HEADED OUT NAGISA-SAN
WELL THEN
GOOD WORK TODAY
AH, RIGHT

KOGA-SAN!

GOOD WORK TODAY TAKAKAGE-SAN
YEAH YOU TOO WAIT, NO!
DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE OUT HERE ALL THIS...?
OF COURSE NOT! I WAS KILLING TIME AT A MANGA CAFE BEFORE THIS

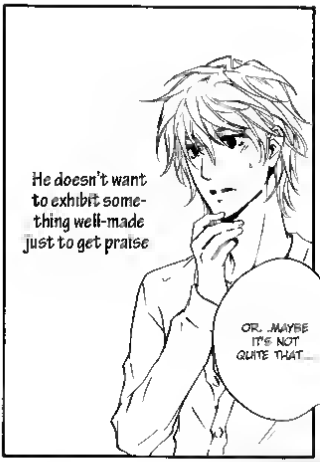
A MANGA CAFE...?
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST COME INTO THE SHOP!
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE RIGHT...
YEAH, BUT...
YOU HAD TO LEAVE YESTERDAY BECAUSE OF ME

TALKED? NO... NOT SINCE THEN...
SO HAVE YOU AND YOUR FATHER...?
WE WERE ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO DISCUSS IT TODAY...
BUT YOU DO AT LEAST *WANT* TO EXHIBIT SOMETHING, RIGHT?
...BUT I KIND OF RUN AWAY...
clink
ARE YOU PERSONALLY...
...AGAINST SUBMITTING THE COMMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION NOW?
I WORRIED IT'D JUST TURN INTO ANOTHER FIGHT LIKE YESTERDAY.


I'M NOT WORRYING ABOUT YOU
HOW DO I PUT IT
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE
WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT ME
I GAVE IT SOME THOUGHT
AND I REALLY WANT YOU TO DO WHAT YOU WANT
IT'S JUST
IT'S SOMETHING YOU ASKED ME TO MAKE YOU
NO--
I MEAN
DOESN'T THAT AMOUNT TO WORRYING ABOUT ME?
?

TO MAKE SOMETHING FOR SOME-ONE
THAT IS
I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU THE WHOLE TIME
IMAGINING HOW HAPPY YOU'D BE
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME
... I'D EVER MADE ANYTHING LIKE THAT

...WANTED TO GIVE IT TO YOU
I REALLY SIMPLY...
BUT AT THE SAME TIME...
I ALSO WANT TO SHARE WITH THE WORLD...
...THE PIECE THAT I MADE FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH THOSE FEELINGS!



The feelings he put into the piece...

?
UMM
TAKAKAGE-SAN...?
I UNDERSTAND
HUH?
I SAID, I UNDERSTAND.

EH?
LOVE...?
THAT'S...
.....
THAT PIECE...
IS YOUR FEELINGS OF LOVE FOR ME INCARNATE

blush
I...
!!!
IT IS

YOU FINALLY
SAID IT BACK
creak...

...GEEZ YOU...
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL
!
shiiake
TAKAKAGE-SAN'S BODY...
IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING IT PROPERLY...
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT *TRYING* TO TURN ME ON, BUT...
HUH?
NGH...

AND THESE HANDS...
kiss
KOGA-SAN...
YOUR BODY IS ALSO BEAUTIFUL
kiss
kiss
...!
I LOVE...
Heh
I KNOW
...YOUR HANDS AS WELL, TAKA-KAGE-SAN...
kiss

Ya-!
huff
Nngh.
Ah
haa...
huff
TAKA-KAGE-SA
squelch
squelch
THAT'S
KIND OF...
huff
huff
squelch
tremble
Ah
Aah
shudder
EH...?
SORRY I'M AT MY LIMIT HERE.
-n!
hng
SHUDDER
PLEASE LET ME PUT IT IN.
Ah
AH-!

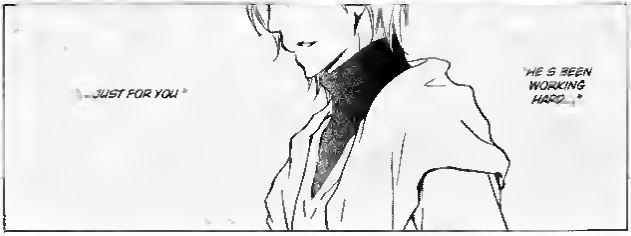
"I THINK —I REALLY DO WANT YOU TO SUBMIT IT, LIKE YOU WANT."

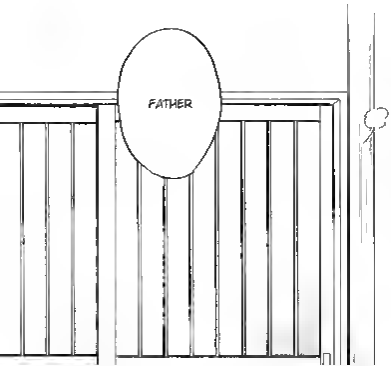
"SO... WHY QUIBBLE ABOUT THE DETAILS?"
"YOU'VE MORE THAN EXPRESSED YOUR FEELINGS TO ME ALREADY."
!

I'VE BEEN THINKING
UMM
RATTLE...
.....
...BE DETERMINED BY ITS RECEPTION FOR THE AWARD
AND DECIDED NOT TO LET THE PRICE OF THAT PIECE...
...JUST BECAUSE OF THIS STUPID FIGHT, IT WOULD BE A LOSS INDEED
IF SOME THING WENT WRONG WITH THE FINALIZATION
EH ?

SO SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END
AND GIVE US A GOOD SHOW...
AS A COMMISSION PIECE...AND AS AN EXHIBIT SUBMISSION.
...THOUGH I WILL SAY THIS:
Pat
frown
JUST THIS ONCE, ALL RIGHT?
I'LL LISTEN TO YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY REQUESTS
SHOULD YOU RECEIVE ANY COMMISSIONS IN THE FUTURE BRING THEM TO ME

I WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON YOUR WORK...
...WITHOUT BEING DISTRACTED BY ALL OF THESE OTHER AFFAIRS


"HE'S BEEN WORKING HARD..."
"...JUST FOR YOU."


FATHER

...THANK YOU.

THIS WAS
OOH!!
—THE RUNNER-UP FOR THE GRAND PRIZE AT THE CERAMICS EXHIBITION—!

WE GOTTA GET IT ALL LIT UP ONCE IT'S SET UP!
THE STAND SHOULD BE HERE SOON
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT SET UP IN HERE...!

INDEED.
WHEN I FIRST GOT THAT ORDER FROM KITAGAKE-SAN...
I NEVER THOUGHT THINGS WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS

NEVER IMAGINED WE'D WIND UP LIKE THIS TOGETHER...
AT THE PRE-OPENING I ALSO...
MEETING YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME...
OH
WAIT DIDN'T YOU MENTION BACK THEN...
THAT WE FELT "DESTINED" OR SOMETHING?

THINK YOU WERE RIGHT?
.....
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU REMEMBER THAT
WELL OF COURSE
YOU MADE A RATHER STRONG IMPRESSION, AFTER ALL

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描き下ろし

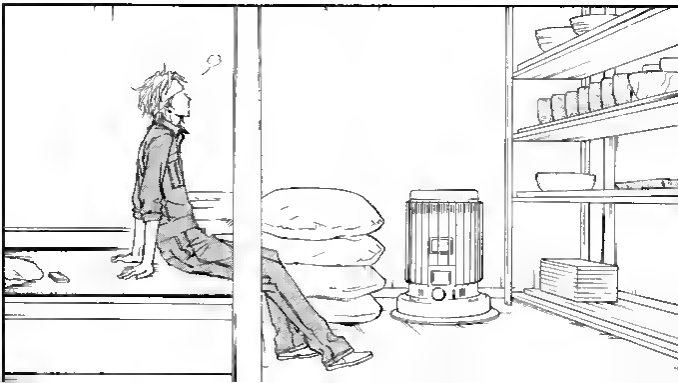
その手の熱を重ねて

open.105

Sono Te no Netsu wo Kasanete

My ability to focus when working with the clay remains unchanged.

In fact, I even feel a bit more fired up than before...



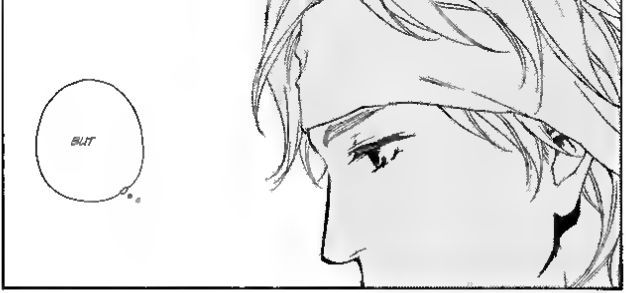
But now, whenever I finish my work for the day...

...I find myself thinking of him.

I remember being somewhat sensitive to the gaps_ but I know it wasn't like it is now

How was I before this_?

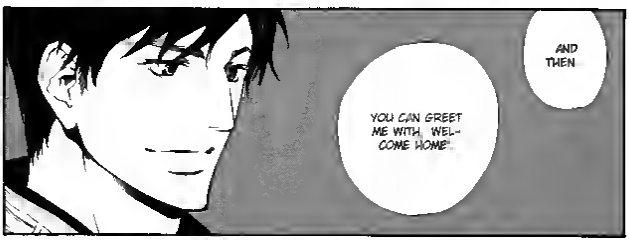
I'VE MANAGED TO FIND A STOPPING POINT WITH THE MOLD
AND THE TRAINS ARE STILL RUNNING
BUT HE'S GOT WORK TOMORROW SO IT MIGHT INCONVENIENCE HIM

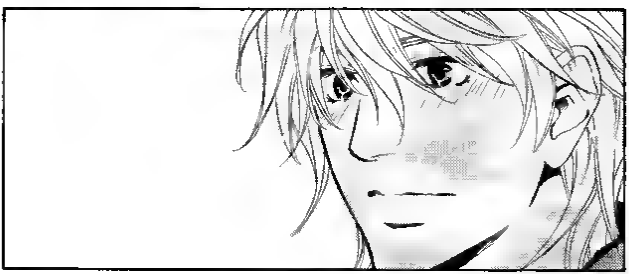


Because I'm sensitive to it now...

...it makes me realize...

KOGA-SAN!
YOU'RE OUT HERE AGAIN?
I'VE TOLD YOU TO JUST COME INTO THE SHOP!
WELL, IT KINDA LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE CLOSING UP, SO...
IT'S STILL CHILLY AT NIGHT
I'LL GIVE YOU A SPARE KEY LATER.
SO WAIT FOR ME AT HOME NEXT TIME, OKAY?
EH...?





I.. really *do*...love this man.

その手の熱を重ねて open.10.5＊END

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